

statement of James Mills, taken at his home, 49 Carman Street, New Brunswick, N. J., January 14, 1923, in the presence of Charlotte Mills, Dan Mills, Clifford R. Powell, and State Trooper Herman Bading.

By - Ellis H. Parker.

Stenographer - Anna E. Yoos.

- Q. When were you first married?
- A. I was first married on the 18th of December, 1895.
- Q. Where were you married at?
- A. Right here at New Brunswick.
- Q. Has your home always been here?
- A. Yes, always been here.
- Q. And your wife's home has always been here?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And when did you first begin to work at this Church?
- A. I went to work on the 15th day of October, 1920.
- Q. As Janitor of the Church?
- A. No, I didn't really take the job as a steady position, just until they got a new man and after I took it, they didn't care whether they got someone or not.
- Q. How much salary did you get?
- A. \$20. a month. Just take care of the heat and the grass in the summer and repair work.
- Q. And then you have a job with the Public School?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And you get, what? \$80.00?
- A. Well, with a bonus, \$115.00 a month. I only got that lately here.
- Q. Who got you that job?
- A. Well, Mr. Hall spoke for me once, but it was through Mr. Reeves, the head janitor. He got me in there.
- Q. Now, prior to Mr. Hall's murder and Mrs. Mills, what was Mrs. Mills condition? Had she been sick?
- A. Yes, the woman has been ailing ever since this operation.
- Q. How long has that been?
- A. She had the operation in February of last year, 1922.
- Q. Who operated on her?
- A. Dr. Smith and Dr. McKerner, who is a specialist on Kidneys.
- Q. What Hospital was she in?
- A. She was in the Wells Hospital, Middlesex Hospital. A man by the name of Wells donated it.
- Q. You started about a week before this happened. What date was it that happened?
- A. On the 14th of September, 1922.
- Q. And you started about a week before that and tell me everything that you can recall on up to the time of the murder.
- A. I know one night my wife came home from the Church and she said that Mr. Hall said something to the Choir about annoying in the Church. I guess some of them were laughing and talking and Mr. Hall called the Choir girls, but I don't know who one of the girls was who said something to my wife and the girl said, "I couldn't help it anyway" and she said there was some trouble over the Choir. But what it was, I don't know. They annoyed the services.
- Q. Did she say who done it or anything?
- A. No, she didn't say exactly who done it. It seems as though the girls were laughing and they have a habit of doing it and they were called down and I guess they thought my wife had something to do with it and they looked at my wife and passed remarks.
- Q. And then what next was done?
- A. There was some controversy that Ralph Gorsline was called down about going with some girls. It came to Mr. Hall's attention that Ralph Gorsline was going with Catherine Rastall and he was a married man and he didn't think anything about it and let it go at that and then several people came to him again and said, "Are you going to let a thing like this go on?" and he said he was a friend of Mr. Gorsline and knew his weak points and good points, so he went to him and told him and he said (Gorsline), there was nothing wrong and that he used to bring her back and forth

account of Catherine having such a long ways to go and having an automobile, he used to take her home.

- Q. Did your wife ever tell you anything that Ralph Corraline ever said or did about Mr. Hall, in Mr. Hall's presence?
- A. Not that I know of.
- Q. What was the next thing you recall, that happened?
- A. I know the time they went to Asbury Park, on the Choir ride. I saw that Mrs. Hall didn't seem very friendly on that ride.
- Q. You were along?
- A. Yes. All the married women had their husbands.
- Q. When was this?
- A. It was in July or August. After they came home from camp.
- Q. That is the Camp at Point Pleasant?
- A. Yes. I think the last two weeks in July.
- Q. What did she tell you about the Camp at Point Pleasant?
- A. She never told me much about the Camp.
- Q. Didn't you tell me the other day, that she told you something about the boys making trouble there?
- A. Yes, that is right, there were some boys. Mr. Hall came home here on Saturday, to preach over Sunday and he left the women there in the Camp and some boys came in there and frightened them during the time he was away, so I guess it was all a joke that was played. There was nothing to it.
- Q. When your wife came home, she told you about it?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What was it she told you about Mr. Hall's revolver?
- A. I said, "Why, didn't Mr. Hall have any protection?" and she said, "Yes, Mr. Hall had an automatic pistol". I think she said it was a 32 calibre too.
- Q. Did she say whether it was light or dark?
- A. No, she only said it had a handle like an umbrella - turned down. She said that Mr. Hall wasn't there at that time. Not there that night.
- Q. Did you ever see Mr. Hall's revolver?
- A. No, I never saw his revolver. Never saw him handle a revolver in my life.
- Q. Did he ever say that he had one?
- A. He never told me anything about it.
- Q. Did you ever hear anyone else say he had one, except Mrs. Miller?
- A. I didn't hear anybody, no.
- Q. Did you ever see Mr. Hall's pocket book?
- A. Sometimes he would pull it out in front of me and some times would pay me for some little odd bills he owed me for some odd trinkets I bought myself.
- Q. What kind of looking pocket book did he have?
- A. Generally a flat thing, two sides to it. It would fold flat, a bill folder and a place for change.
- Q. What color was it?
- A. A dark brown, I am pretty positive.
- Q. What kind of keys did he have?
- A. He carried a key for his automobile, because he told me he wouldn't allow anyone to run the automobile but himself and he always carried it in his pocket.
- Q. He must have had a garage key?
- A. I don't know whether he had a garage key or not.
- Q. How many keys did he have on the ring?
- A. Probably two or three. He had a key to the church and a key to the Sunday school.
- Q. A key to his home, a key to the garage and a key to his automobile. Then he must have had five keys?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did Mr. Hall ever call your attention to any particular person that was annoying?
- A. No, never mentioned anything to me.
- Q. Did Mr. Hall and Mr. Corraline seem to be good friends?
- A. Well, I don't know. They didn't seem to be very thick together at all, because Mr. Corraline stayed away from the choir and was out quite a lot, whether it was business or not, I don't know.
- Q. You said something about a man brought his wife to the church and

- you said his actions were something out of the ordinary.
- A. Yes. Alvin Jordan. He came there with his wife in his automobile, left his wife out of the automobile and she went to the Sunday School and he came over to talk to me. I was sitting on the front steps of the church and he never went inside of the Sunday School to see how many were in the choir and that struck me right away and then he turned the machine and went down town. He has a touring car.
- Q. How old is he?
- A. He is a man in his 40's, late in his 40's.
- Q. And his wife sings in the choir over there?
- A. She is the leader.
- Q. What was he talking about when he was talking to you?
- A. He was telling me about its being a warm night. He said, "It is warm here" and he happened to look inside. I could see from the church step and I looked in the window and I could see them standing in their stalls. He walked around and looked in the room.
- Q. And that was on a Friday night?
- A. Yes, that is when they have choir practice.
- Q. Did you hear him ask where Mr. Hall was?
- A. No, I said Mr. Hall wasn't there.
- Q. Did you tell him he hadn't been there the night before?
- A. No, I didn't.
- Q. You didn't say anything to him about your wife?
- A. No.
- Q. Has he and your wife had any differences?
- A. Well, I don't think they were very friendly, for my part. My wife always sat apart from her. There was one time that Mr. Hall was going to try to put my wife the leader, a paid leader and I think the vestrymen didn't like it and Mrs. Jordan went up to Maine and when she came back, they took her in again.
- Q. Who are the vestrymen?
- A. I don't know all of them. I know a man by the name of Phillips and Bartholomew and Barman, Harry Carpenter, a man named Hubner and then there is a Stokes and I think Ralph Caroline was a vestryman.
- Q. How old are you?
- A. I will be 45 this month, the 23rd of this month.
- Q. How old is Mrs. Mills?
- A. She was 34 the last of November, just past 34.
- Q. Now, tell me on this day, the 14th day of September, or tell me the day before.
- A. That is the day they were at Lake Hopatcong. I got up that morning, had my breakfast and went to work at the school at five minutes of seven. My wife was here yet, in the house, and she was packing things, getting ready to go to this picnic on an automobile trip.
- Q. Who was there that went on that trip?
- A. There was Mr. Hall, Mrs. Hall, Mr. Hall's mother, Mrs. Clark.
- Q. What is Mr. Hall's mother's name?
- A. I couldn't tell the first name.
- Q. Where does she live?
- A. She is out of town now. She is in Jersey City now, but she was boarding on Bayard Street.
- Q. What is Mrs. Clark's name?
- A. Her first name is Minnie.
- Q. She sings in the choir?
- A. No, she is only a Sunday school teacher.
- Q. After she was preparing on this day before, when did you next see your wife?
- A. When I left home, I didn't see my wife until about half past eight or nine o'clock that night. She was on that ride all day.
- Q. What did she tell you about her trip?
- A. She really didn't tell me much about the trip at all.
- Q. Did she say anything about Mrs. Hall being cold toward her?
- A. No, but I think she told some others.
- Q. Then, the next morning, Thursday morning?
- A. Well, on Thursday morning, I got up, as usual, and she got up. I went down and got the stuff at the store, buns and things for the

morning and she had coffee on cooking and I had my breakfast and went to the church before I went to the school. I always do that in the morning, because it is damp in there and you have got to let air in the place and then I came back and went to the school. I didn't come to the house and then I went to work in the school and worked until twenty minutes of five, on a Thursday evening and I came right direct from the school, not in the house, but to the church and the carpenters were there, but they weren't there when I got back. They were fixing the vestibule. Ephraim White is the contractor.

Q. That was about what time?

A. On a Thursday evening, the carpenters were gone. They finished up a little after 4 o'clock. I think they said it was and they made an awful mess of shavings there, so I opened up the Sunday school door and I went in the Mother's kitchen and got a barrel which was almost empty and I cleaned up the shavings and it was an awful job trying to get them out of the grass and I had to get them all out, so I fooled around and Mr. Hall came there about five minutes of six and he left five minutes after six, because I pulled my watch out and looked at it.

Q. What conversation did you have with him?

A. There was nothing wrong. I had a conversation with him about the job. I said, "I guess I have the job" and he said, "I guess they made a good job", so I said, "You want to get me some paint", so he said, "I will order some paint as soon as I get home. I will telephone to Mr. Bartholomew, on Church Street" and I saw Mr. Bartholomew since then and had a talk with him and he said it was about half past seven when Mr. Hall telephoned to him.

Q. Did he say that Mr. Hall telephoned to his house or store?

A. To his house.

Q. And what did Mr. Hall tell him to do?

A. Told him about the brown paint for the vestibule and he (Bartholomew) said, "The paint will be ready in the morning". The paint came on a Friday morning and when I opened the school and when I came back, the paint was there. That was on the 15th.

Q. Did Mr. Hall say anything about anything else?

A. No, there didn't seem to be anything different in the man. He seemed the same as he ever was.

Q. How long did you stay there at the church after Mr. Hall went away?

A. I may have been there about ten minutes, because it was quarter after six when I left there.

Q. And where did you go?

A. I came right home for my supper and my wife growled at me for coming home late and she said, "The tea has been standing and it is cold and everything on the table is cold", so it was a warm night on Thursday.

Q. And then you ate your supper?

A. Yes. The four of us sat down and ate. Charlotte, Dan, my wife and I, all sat at the table.

Q. Then what next do you recall, Mr. Miller?

A. When I got done with my supper, I picked up these brackets that I am fixing and I worked on them until it got so dark I couldn't see and my wife went down stairs and was sitting in a rocking chair on the stoop and it was around twenty minutes of seven, she came up from the stoop and she went out again and she wasn't gone very long and back she came in the house again.

Q. Did she tell you where she had been?

A. No, she didn't tell me. So she came in and I was still out there working on the back porch and she picked this scarf and hat. She had the same dress on and everything and she was going out of the room.

Q. How was she dressed?

A. She had brown oxford ties, black stockings. She didn't change at all and I don't think she intended to stay very long. She had that blue dotted dress on, that scarf and a blue velvet turban with brown velvet trimming and I asked her where she was going and she said, "Follow me and find out," so my back was turned and I didn't even notice which way she went.

Q. Did she say she had telephoned?

- A. I think she said she had a telephone call. I don't know whether she said she telephoned or was going to telephone. I am not positive, but she said, "Follow me and find out". They are the last words she said. I didn't go out to see which way she went. I didn't follow her. That was around half past seven. I don't know whether she went up or down the street.
- Q. What did you do?
- A. I kept on working at the stoop and when it got dark, I worked until quarter of ten under this light. It was day-light saving time then.
- Q. Did anyone come here while you were there?
- A. No, no one outside of our own family. I don't know whether my mother came that night.
- Q. What did you do at quarter of ten, after you got through working, what did you do?
- A. I read the newspapers and I read the Home News and what news I could pick out and I picked up the World paper and when I got to the back part of the paper of the World, a piece was missing and I found that on Mr. Hall's desk. She must have gone there after supper and I think that is the time she found something missing and then she telephoned Mr. Hall and I think he said, "It is too bad". His servants told that. But what he meant, I don't know.
- Q. And when you did go out, where did you go?
- A. I went on the front stoop and was smoking. Mrs. Kelly was sitting there too on her stoop.
- Q. What time was that?
- A. Five minutes to ten. You see, Mr. Kelly came out and he takes the South Amboy car which leaves at 10 o'clock, and he came out and said, "Good-evening, Jim" and I spoke to him and he went up the street and I sat there for fully ten or fifteen minutes after he had passed. As he passed, this woman came down from the car as it went away and she took some relation of hers to the car. A woman by the name of Mrs. Bank, lives on the foot of Carmel Street.
- Q. What did Mrs. Bank say when she came back?
- A. She was talking to Mrs. Kelly and said, "What do you know about the automobile accident?" and I saw her head drop and said that Larry Witt got hurt in an automobile accident. I think Mr. Kelly's son had been with those boys in the day and she thought he might have been with them. She thought she was trying to hold something back and was afraid to tell her. They didn't stay there very long and before they got up, I reached the corner. I thought they would think I was butting in on their business and I smoked a pretty good sized cigar and it was pretty near 11 o'clock when I left the corner out here and then I went from here to the Jew store and got a glass of soda water and stayed in there for five minutes or some, or probably ten minutes and I asked her about the telephone and she said, "Your wife no 'phone here".
- Q. That was that night?
- A. Yes and she said, "Your wife no 'phone here".
- Q. What made you ask her?
- A. Because when she went out, she said something about the telephone call, whether she got one, or was going to and I asked her and she said she hadn't been there. I went to Arcel street to Commercial Avenue and I went around George Street and into the Sunday School.
- Q. About what time was that?
- A. I turned the lights on, right under the clock and it was ten minutes after eleven and that is pretty correct. I went around, closed all the windows, closed everything up. I did take a glance and saw that newspaper clipping on the desk and I didn't pay any attention to it and there were some small clippings out of the papers and one was, I think one was, "One marriage in the first love marriage. One out of Twenty", or something like that. Another was, "They weep and see it melt like snow". I had the clippings here, but they have been destroyed. I can't exactly get it right. I brought them home and the slip of paper.
- Q. That night?
- A. No, not until Friday night. I took the papers home, but there

was another paper there. I think it was the week following Sunday and it was about Perry Grant, but that picture was taken and someone must have taken that out of the church.

Q. How long did you stay up at the church?

A. It wasn't more than twenty-five minutes after eleven when I came out.

Q. Did you look around to see if you could find your wife?

A. No, I didn't. I came home here. Left the door unlocked and the light on. Charlotte and Sam came home from my sister-in-law's and went to bed about 10 o'clock. I was in the house when they came in. I never left here until five minutes after ten and went down stairs.

Q. And when you came home and went to bed, what did you do?

A. I left that door unbolted and the light burning and I was tired. I must have slept in between that time. When I went to bed about twenty-five minutes after eleven and it was after two o'clock, something startled me and I woke up and saw this light burning. (25 to 2), so I got up and slipped on this khaki suit that I wear at the school and I went up stairs to Charlotte's room and asked her if her mother was in and I heard her say, "Mm-mm," like a person dozing off and I pushed the door open and she wasn't there and I came down and went up to the church. I went up Carman street and I didn't meet a soul going up or coming back. I went to the church and it was about ten minutes after two by the clock. This clock is fast now.

Q. What did you do when you went up there?

A. I turned on the lights and went through between all the seats. I thought she might have gone there early in the evening and fell in between the seats with one of those spells. I looked around the seats and then came out, but I didn't sleep.

Q. How long were you in the church?

A. Maybe about fifteen minutes.

Q. What kind of spells did your wife have?

A. She gets like fainting spells.

Q. You didn't see Mrs. Hall when you were up there?

A. No, I didn't. Not on Friday night, I mean Thursday night, rather and on Friday morning early, I didn't see her and when I went twice on that morning at ten minutes after two and twenty-five minutes after eleven, I didn't see her.

Q. I want to get back - On this night, when your wife went out of the house, she was gone a while and came back and then she went out again and she came back and told you about the 'phone?

A. Yes, that is when she went out.

Q. And then she went out again?

A. Yes.

Q. She had gone twice and came back after supper?

A. That is right.

Q. And that is when she said she was 'phoning?

A. Yes.

Q. And you didn't ask her who she telephoned to?

A. No.

Q. And you didn't ask her?

A. No.

Q. When was the next time you went to the church on this Friday morning early?

A. It was on Thursday night, at ten minutes after eleven, that was the last time on Thursday and on Friday morning early, at ten minutes after two is when I went back there. Then I went there between 8 and 9 on Friday morning and opened the windows and that is when I met Mrs. Hall there. I went in the Sunday school and I opened all the windows on one side. I came around to Mr. Hall's study and I just opened the window in his study and something startled me and I saw this black and white striped skirt and she said, "Did you have any sickness down at your house last night?" and I said, "Why, no, Mrs. Hall" and she said, "Mr. Hall hasn't been home all night" and I said, "My wife hasn't been home at all" and I said, "Do you think it was an elopement?" and she said, "Oh! no, Mr. Hall wouldn't do that" and she said, "I think it is foul play". That is the crack

she made to me.

- Q. Did you say something about they might have gone to Coney Island?
- A. That was that night on her front porch.
- Q. What other conversation did you have with her?
- A. I asked her whether she thought it was an elopement and she said, "Oh!, no. There is no elopement. There is foul play". I said, "Mrs. Hall, did you hear whether there was any automobile accident?" "Did you telephone the Police Hospitals?" and she said she called up that night, but didn't give any name. She called up the night sergeant of the Police Station.
- Q. What is his name?
- A. DeWire. She called him up and he said that she called up, but didn't give any name. The man said, "May I have your name?" and she said, "Do I have to give it?" and he said, "No, it is not necessary".
- Q. Did she have any other conversation between eight and nine?
- A. Yes, I said, "Did you see if any of his bank accounts had been molested or bothered, see if he made any drawings in the bank?" and she said she would, but she couldn't get in the bank, because it was about half past eight and she said she couldn't get in until 9 o'clock and I guess she saw Florence and I guess she went to see him and she told him nothing in the banks were disturbed. He had made no drawings on the bank. Then, that was all I said. I came out of the Church, out of the Sunday school and she didn't park her car in front of the Church, she parked it by the side gate. I guess she thought she would catch me in there, because she knew I would open the windows.
- Q. What did you do towards trying to locate your wife?
- A. I didn't do anything at all. I didn't know what to do; where to telephone, or anything.
- Q. Where did you see Mrs. Hall next?
- A. I saw her here. She came around dinner time. She didn't come in the house and she said, "You haven't heard anything?" and I said, "Mrs. Hall, I haven't heard anything".
- Q. Was anybody here but you when she was here?
- A. Only Dan.
- Q. How long did she stay?
- A. Only a few minutes and went down the back stoop.
- Q. Did she say anything else?
- A. Just asked me if I heard anything.
- Q. When was the next time you saw her?
- A. The next time I saw her, was about quarter after five. That was on Friday. She came up again. I had went down after I left the school. I went to Collier's for ice. We were too late for the Iceman and I had to go down and get the ice, so I put the ice in the box and I was breaking it and Mrs. Hall came up on the back stoop.
- Q. And what did she say to you?
- A. She asked me if I heard anything else, and I said, "No, Mrs. Hall", and I said, "If I hear anything, I will come up to the house", so she didn't stay here very long and went down again.
- Q. Who was there here that time?
- A. The boy, (Dan), nobody else.
- Q. Then, when was the next time you saw her?
- A. The next - I went after supper, about half past seven, I went and opened the church and turned the lights on and opened the doors and then after I opened the door, someone came. I think the church Organist and I went to Mrs. Hall's.
- Q. Who was there?
- A. Mrs. Hall was all alone, sitting on the porch. She was in a rocking chair on the porch of her house, all alone and I said, "Well, Mrs. Hall, I don't know what way to think, or what to do, or what way to do" and I said, "He has never done this before and I don't know what to do" and she said, "I am just looking at a blank wall" and then I popped that question again about the Coney Island Carnival and I said, "Mrs. Hall, do you think they went to the Coney Island Carnival?" and she said, "Oh! no, Mr. Hall wouldn't go there". She said, "They are dead, or they would come home". That is what she said. I didn't stay very long. I don't believe it was fifteen

- minutes over the month.
- Q. No one else was there?
- A. No, no one else. Now wait a minute, her brother Willie was there on a Friday night.
- Q. Did you ask her whether she got in touch with the bank?
- A. No, I did not.
- Q. Did you ask her if she heard anything?
- A. I asked her and she said, "No".
- Q. Did you make any suggestions that they might have run off and gone away?
- A. No, I asked her about the elopement and it just passed out of my mind and I didn't know what to think or say.
- Q. And when you left there, where did you go?
- A. I went back to the church.
- Q. And how long did you stay at the church that night?
- A. I stayed there until a little after nine. I think the church choir rehearsal was over and then I turned out the lights and didn't come exactly home on Friday night. I came with the kid (Ben), he was with me and we got a glass of phosphate and then I came home and that was around twenty minutes of ten when I got home.
- Q. Did you stay home the rest of the night?
- A. Didn't go anywhere.
- Q. Did you see Mrs. Hall any more after that?
- A. I saw Mrs. Hall on the Saturday morning that I went to the school. I couldn't work, I couldn't do my work. I saw Mrs. Hall at her home. I went on a Saturday morning. I went to the school and about half past nine, I left the school and went to her house, and Mrs. Hall was down town with a woman, in her automobile, doing some shopping and when I went there, she wasn't at home and she came back while I was waiting. I talked with her a few minutes and I said I didn't know what to make of it. "I won't be satisfied until she gets back". "I didn't know what to make of it. My home is in an awful condition. The children are upset" and what did she do, she said, "It is certainly too bad".
- Q. Did she say anything about what she thought?
- A. No, nothing at all. Then I didn't stay there very long. I didn't know what the dance to do. I felt half sick. I got what dinner we had. I went to my wife's sister.
- Q. What is her name?
- A. Augusta Tension. I said, "Have you heard anything of Eleanor?" she has been gone two nights. Has she been here?" and she said, "No, I haven't seen Eleanor for a week".
- Q. How many brothers have you here?
- A. I have three brothers.
- Q. Did you go to all of them?
- A. No, I didn't go to any of them. They never bothered. I have a brother Henry. He belongs to the Church up there and I have a brother Vernon and he works in Greece and my wife hadn't saw him for weeks. There was a block dance in the summer time. I think it was the first block dance of the season and it was the last time my wife had ever seen my brother and his wife.
- Q. When was the next you heard anything?
- A. Then I was at my sister-in-law's and I didn't stay very long, because she said she didn't know anything, so I came up and I went to Albany street and to the station and a little girl came to me and said, "Mrs. Tension wants to see you at the lady's house across the street", and I went back to the house and I saw her in the door-way and she said, "They just got a telephone call that they found the bodies in Ryders Lane, or DeBussey's lane" and I started down Albany street. I was going to Ryders Lane. It is out this way and I didn't know where DeBussey's Lane was.
- Q. Did you know where Easton Avenue Road was?
- A. Yes, I understood that thoroughly. I have been out on Easton Avenue Road, as far as the Lane and I have never been on that Phillip's farm. I hadn't been on Easton Avenue Road. Never knew where Buccleugh Park was. I have never been on the Lane. I got as far as Albany and Spring street and as I came to the

corner, I looked at the Bulletin Board and I saw it was DeRusse's Lane and then I knew it was DeRusse's Lane and I came right home. I felt as sick as a dog, I felt like a rag, as if I had no bones and I took a dose of Aromatics and after I came from Mrs. Tommerson's, I told Mrs. Hall about it. I told her I heard they found the bodies" and if I hadn't sat down, I would have flopped and she said, "Yes, Mr. Florence telephoned us about it" and she sat as calm as life. I flopped down in the chair and they gave me Aromatic Spirits of Amonia. Believe me if I wasn't sick, I stayed there for maybe ten minutes after that. I came on down here and no more than I got here, there was a man by the name of Addison Clark, that is the woman from the church and said, "Come in, Totten wants to see you. Detective Totten wants to see you at Hubbard's Morgue and I went right up there and I met a man by the name of Kennedy, a stenographer he had there, but he got me in a limousine, no, it was a little Ford Coupe and we got in that and he asked me all my movements and I have told him exactly what I have told you here.

Q. Where did he take you to?

A. To Bayard street and there were about fifty camera men there, snapping my picture and we went to Bayard Street.

Q. What time was it you got word?

A. It was after dinner.

Q. What time was it Mr. Totten had you?

A. I should judge it was around 2 o'clock, maybe after two. He had me up there and went all over my movements and I told him exactly what I done and knew. He took it down in black and white and we talked about different things for over an hour. Had me in front of the school to get away from the reporters and he said, "I will see you tomorrow" and let me out of the car and I came in the house, so I was up to the Prosecutor's office and Teolin and Ferguson were there and they asked me about my movements and I gave them the same that I gave Totten. I didn't know anything else to tell them and it is best to tell the truth, because if you lie, you can't get anywhere with it, so they held me in the Prosecutor's office and they asked me if I had any fire arms and I said I had a little rifle.

Q. What calibre is that?

A. 22. It was taken apart, wrapped up in newspapers and they have it.

Q. Do you think Mrs. Hall had a hand in this?

A. My mind tell me Mrs. Hall knows a lot about it. I don't think she did it, but she knows all about it.

Q. Do you think Gerveline did it?

A. He is a sneaky fellow. He knows a lot about fire arms.

Q. Do you think that Jordan had anything to do with it?

A. I don't know.

Q. Did you ever own a revolver, Jim?

A. Never owned one in my life.

Q. You had a trade, didn't you, Jim?

A. Yes, shoe cutter. Maybe seven or eight years I worked there.

Q. Do you repair your own shoes yet?

A. Not since I took this job. I don't have time.

Q. Jim, didn't you tell me something about a woman come to you in the street and told you something that Mrs. Hall had said?

A. Yes.

Q. Tell me about that?

A. Long after the crime, about three or four weeks after the crime happened, an elderly woman, late in the forty's, or early in her fifty's, came to the fence while I was cutting the grass. I wasn't paying any attention to what the woman was saying, but I know now what she said to me.

Q. Did she ask you who you were?

A. Yes, she said, "You are Mr. Mills, aren't you?" and I said, "Yes" and she said, "Do you know that Mrs. Hall went up to Mrs. Murray's and said she had found another letter in Mr. Hall's pocket" and like a fool, I should have found out what her name was.

Q. Did she say Mrs. Murray said it?

A. No, she said she heard one of the servants say it.

- Q. And this was two days before Hall was killed that Mrs. Hall went to Mrs. Murray's and the maid heard her say that?
- A. I couldn't say how long before.
- Q. And she said to her Aunt, "I have found another letter in Mr. Hall's pocket?"
- A. Yes. If I had only gotten her name, I would have nabbed her. I didn't know the woman. She is a total stranger.
- Q. Have you tried to find out who she was?
- A. Yes, I tried lots. I look at every woman.
- Q. Did you ever go to Murray's home?
- A. No. She lives on E Avenue.
- Q. Well, what time did that shooting occur? What time did they say it occurred?
- A. Some fellow said around 9.30 and some 10.30. It must have been early in the evening, because my wife don't stay out late.
- Q. How late has she stayed out?
- A. 10 o'clock would be out of time for her. I believe that they have been in the park somewhere and they were chased out of the park and they ran over in that place to hide themselves. They were caught, because I don't think they ever went as far as the farm.
- Q. Did you ever see your wife's body?
- A. No. She was buried from the Morgue.
- Q. You say you want to see it?
- A. I went down there and Hubbard said, "You had better not see her, but remember her as you saw her in life".
- Q. Did you ever see Mr. Hall's watch?
- A. I have a faint recollection of it. It was a Hunting case, gold watch.
- Q. Did it have anything on it?
- A. I couldn't say.
- Q. Didn't it have some sort of an engraving on it?
- A. I never took any notice. He always wore a fob with a charm on it. That is all I saw.
- Q. Mr. Mills, did you ever see any letters your wife wrote Mr. Hall, or Mr. Hall wrote your wife?
- A. Absolutely, no.
- Q. Did you see any letters at all?
- A. Yes. All the letters they found on the body, I saw them.
- Q. Before the murder?
- A. There were two letters here in a scarf, three letters. They were sheets of tablets. Never been in the mail, weren't dated or signed.
- Q. Who were they addressed to?
- A. One was "dear" and one was "Honey". She would write things like that out of books and she would keep it for a while and then take them out and burn them.
- Q. When was it you saw these three letters in the scarf?
- A. That was on Wednesday night, the night she came home from the ride.
- Q. Were any of those letters, any of those three, any that you saw in the Grand Jury room?
- A. Yes, I think one of them. I just glanced at it. I saw "Honey" and pushed it back in the scarf.
- Q. Did you ever say anything to your wife about them?
- A. No, I never mentioned it. No, I did not.
- Q. Did your wife ever tell you that anybody had ever annoyed her?
- A. No, never mentioned anything to me.
- Q. Never suggested anything in any way?
- A. No.
- Q. Were you ever shown any of the cartridges or bullets that were found.
- A. No, absolutely none of them. I think Dr. Cronk told me about them.
- Q. What did he say?
- A. He comes to the school and he told us that when he went up there and looked at her body, he knew there were more than Dr. Long said there was about it. He said she was shot twice and Dr. Long said she was shot once and he said that her throat was cut and Dr. Long said, "No". And that is what made them examine her body again and I think he said one of her ear drums were shot and she was shot in the mouth, under the nose, but none of her teeth were broken.

- Q. How many times was she shot?
- A. Three times, got bullets in the head. Four bullets in her head. Three times - I mean shot three times and three bullets.
- Q. What did he say about her throat?
- A. Said it was cut.
- Q. Did he say how?
- A. Said she was cut from one ear to the center of her throat and then from the other ear to the center of her throat and all the way through and it was only the back bone held it and they wrapped the scarf so tight, so that her head wouldn't drop back.
- Q. The doctor told you that?
- A. Yes. I am sorry I didn't see her. My brother-in-law went in and he looked at her body, it was dark when they brought her back and he saw her hands wrapped in cloths or rags, so he said he saw her lying in the casket, or in the box, but he couldn't recognize what it was. Her head was bandaged up. My condition was terrible. I was in an awful condition. I don't know. Then they called me that morning, the day she was buried and they held me in the prosecutor's office, talking until about fifteen minutes before the funeral and all the rest of the people were there.
- Q. Did you go to the funeral?
- A. Yes, I went down there and after the funeral, we buried her in the cemetery and I had to go back to the prosecutor's office and they never bothered Mrs. Hall for nearly two weeks after this happened.
- Q. Jim, did they come here and search your house?
- A. Totten & Beckman came here and they didn't make a thorough search, but they didn't make a thorough search, because they didn't find the letters. They were in a bag here. I pulled out the drawers in the little desk and looked in the bookcase and after they went, I looked to see if I could find any letters. I had a letter from this great medium, Hazel Hyer, from Miami, Fla. He said, "Look through your wife's correspondence and you will find some letters and I can tell you all about her death", so I went in there and went after them and I was there about two hours looking through every book to see what I could find.
- Q. After Mr. Hall and Mrs. Mills had been found, did you go to the church and make any search?
- A. I went there to see if I could find anything. The desk was open and he never kept it locked and I saw his papers had been ransacked. Some one had been there before I went there. I went there on a Saturday morning.
- Q. That is before the bodies were found?
- A. No, I went Saturday night. See, I didn't have a chance to go there Saturday morning, because I was taken to the prosecutor's office, to Mrs. Hall's and my sister-in-law's. Whoever had been there, ransacked the drawers in his desk.
- Q. Well, Jim, those letters that you saw in her pocket on a Wednesday night -
- A. It was only two leaves.
- Q. They were the same ones, some of them, the same that were found when her body was found?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And Mr. Hall couldn't have received them?
- A. No.
- Q. And then it couldn't have been Mrs. Hall who placed them there?
- A. Well, there were 9 or 10.
- Q. Well, it couldn't have been Mrs. Hall who placed them there?
- A. Not those three letters.
- Q. Jim, do you think Mrs. Hall would put those letters there if she had anything to do with it? Wouldn't it naturally make people suspect her?
- A. Well, it naturally would. You would think that way, but I know one thing, I don't believe Mr. Hall ever carried those letters there with him.
- Q. Who do you think had these letters, your wife?
- A. No, I don't think so.
- Q. Jim, might it not be possible that your wife had a lot of those

- things with her for him to read?
- A. I don't think so. I hardly think so. I don't think so. According to his letters, or her letters, they had met on that Boston Avenue before, because in the prosecutor's office, I saw some there. It showed that they had been on the Boston Avenue road. That road runs to Buccolough Park and over.
- Q. I show you a copy of a lot of letters that were found and ask you to look at them and tell me, do you recall seeing any of them in her pocket.
- A. This letter (on page 2), must be the last she wrote, because my mother was in the house. It says, "Grandma is here. I must stop. Sweetheart, etc." The first one I showed, must be the last she wrote, because Grandma was here.
- Q. That was on a Wednesday?
- A. No, on a Thursday, when the thing happened that night. I remember seeing "Honey" on the top of one of the letters and I remember her saying something about Mrs. Hopkins. She was saying that in here. (Letter on page 10). Something about them living in a different world, about someone next to the Hopkins got married. I remember the letter with "Honey", (page 9).
- Q. Were you down at the Camp this summer?
- A. Mr. Hall wanted me to go down on a vacation in the Camp and then Charlotte and Dan didn't want to go and I didn't want to leave the house alone and I didn't go, but I did intend to go down on the Wednesday they broke Camp with Mrs. Hall.
- Q. Did Mrs. Hall ever say anything to you concerning your wife and Mr. Hall?
- A. Absolutely no. Never mentioned anything to me.
- Q. Did anyone else ever say anything to you that you can recall?
- A. No. They never did. But one woman did say something. Now, let me see, what that was. There was an older woman told me in a joking way, "Your wife, down at the Camp, certainly could cook. She was such a good cook down there". Each woman paid \$7.00 for the time they were there.
- Q. Who was that woman, do you remember?
- A. Why, it was a woman by the name of Mrs. Hassel.
- Q. But she never said anything about your wife and Mr. Hall?
- A. No.
- Q. What was it Minnie Clark said to you on the day after this happened?
- A. I went to Minnie Clark's house after this happened. I think it was Monday or Tuesday I went to her house and I asked her did she know anything about Eleanor's conduct at the church and she said, "absolutely nothing. I didn't know anything wrong about them".
- Q. Did your wife ever say anything about Minnie Clark taking the preacher a bouquet?
- A. Never mentioned anything in the house, but I saw it in the paper and in the letters. She never said anything to me. Minnie Clark seemed to be very friendly with my wife. I never saw anything wrong with them.
- Q. Did your wife say anything about the way Mrs. Hall treated her recently?
- A. She did say something about Mrs. Hall being very cool. That was after the Point Pleasant trip.
- Q. What did she say?
- A. She said, "Mrs. Hall didn't seem to care for her as much as she used to. She seemed to shun her and if she was near her, she sort of turned away from her. She didn't tell me what it was over. What the cause of it was.
- Q. Did you have any thought of what the cause of it was?
- A. No cause of it at all. Didn't know what to think of it.
- Q. You said to me that Mrs. Hall might know something about this, if she did, who do you think done it?
- A. That I don't know. Why they went out of the house when Mr. Hall went out of the house and overheard a conversation. Mrs. Hall might have heard something over the telephone, because there is

a main telephone down stairs and an extension down stairs and he was upstairs and whether she got on the telephone and followed them and knew where the Tryson place was and went there. She has a brother, half-fool there, Willie, but he is not such a fool. I heard a man say he bets all his life from here to heaven, that Willie pulled that trick and I said, "Oh! I didn't think so."

Q. Who was he, do you know?

A. No, I don't know. He said, "Well, they are the kind who generally do these tricks. And the way the bodies were laid out, that is the way he thought. Mr. Hall's eye-lids were both pulled down; his glasses put on and his hat. One fellow came down here and accused me of it. They were reporters and they accused me and he said, "Another thing, Mr. Mills, you were an undertaker and no person, but an Undertaker knows enough to pull down the eye-lids". I didn't know what to think. I said, "I never worked for an Undertaker" and I had a Cousin, who worked for an Undertaker. He used to be an Embalmer and I happened to think that it was my Cousin, Elias Mills they heard of and he hasn't been one for 18 years.

Q. How did they say the bodies were laid out?

A. The nearest I can get to it, he laid flat on his back, one hand beside him and one hand under her shoulders and one leg up. That is what they told me.

Q. How many bullets were fired into him?

A. Only one. It came out of his right ear and went in his forehead, but I don't know whether it was the right or left ear. Shot from the front, because he said when a bullet goes in, it leaves an impression.

Q. Shows where it comes out?

A. Yes. It must have passed right through him. He wasn't out anywhere except that his knuckles were bruised where he might have been in a fight.

Q. Did it show any evidence of a fight there?

A. According to a doctor, there must have been, because his knuckles were bruised and whether he got that when he fell, or what, I don't know. A man like that, he is a powerful man and it would take a pretty good sized man to get away from him.

Q. A man would have to shoot him?

A. Would have to shoot him. An ordinary man wouldn't have any business with him. He was a pretty good athlete. He was with the Boy Scouts and all things like that when we were at Asbury Park and he took us us to that Swede Ball and he could throw them as if it was an ordinary ball and he weighed about 190 lbs.

Q. Jim, what is your idea as to how they pulled that? Do you suppose they crompt up on them?

A. Crompt up on them - I don't know how to explain the thing. I don't know how it could be done. I can't figure at all.

Q. They must have been sitting down?

A. They must have been sitting down when they were shot. I have seen a horse that has been shot and he would fall down in a heap. There were some who went there and said they had their feet towards the Crab Apple tree and their faces toward the road. They took the roots of the crab apple tree and everything out and they had several spots out in the ground and they tried to get blood from the ground and he said, "Where this soil was broken, that is where their g's heads laid". But you can't tell me anything different. I don't think there is an outside stranger who did it. It is someone in the church. Who would want to kill two innocent persons outside of the church. I don't believe Mr. Hall had any enemies. You wouldn't want to meet a finer man than Mr. Hall. I worked there two years the 15th of last October and I never had a wrong word with that man and never had a quarrel. Never had any way to have a quarrel. Whatever I asked him, he would do for me.

Q. Jim, what is this story that was in the paper about disagreements between you and your wife? What was that, an ordinary family affair?

A. Yes, I will tell you what that was over. It was in June, the

latter part of June, I was trimming the hedge on a Saturday afternoon, with a pair of pruning shears, it was around 2 o'clock and she went in the Sunday School and then Mr. Hall came in and they started the phonograph going and I could see them in the study and the phonograph was playing and I was trimming the hedge and it was getting late and she was in there and I went in, I wanted to get a drink of water, in the Sunday School, but I didn't go in his room and when I went in, she was sitting there with the phonograph playing and I said, "You better get the meat and things for tomorrow. You know you made me get it last week, so she came out a few minutes after that and said, "Don't you come in to Mr. Hall again like that" and I said, "I got the stuff in last week and it started her up and I said, "You go get the meat? and she said, "You will get the meat yourself", like that and it was getting late and I know if I didn't bother, it wouldn't get done, so she came over later and said, "What kind of meat shall I get?" and I said, "Get a piece of roast, or something like that" and it all passed over. She went over and she didn't like the looks of the meat and she came over George Street and went over to Orland and got meat there and instead of waiting for it, she comes from Orland home here and I kept cutting the hedge and it was about twenty minutes after that, I saw him (Don), coming up the street and I said, "Where you going?" and he said, "I am going after the meat" and I said, "Why didn't she bring it?" and he said, "She went carry it" and I said, "That is a pretty thing", I said to her, "You were there and then sent the kid up after it" and she said, "Hereafter, you get the meat yourself", in sort of a fly way. I guess Elsie was here yet. He said something about jealousy over Mr. Hall and I made a Hell house for her, but she wasn't that kind of a woman.

Q. Did you have any serious quarrel?

A. No, I never hit the woman in my life. Never struck her.

Q. Well, Jim, is there anything else you could tell me that would throw any light on it?

A. No, I cant. Ralph Corraline came out and said my wife tried to vamp him.

Q. Did your wife ever say anything about it to you?

A. No, never.

Q. She didn't care for him, did she?

A. No, never had any use for Ralph Corraline. Here last night, there was a Men's Council Meeting and Ralph Corraline wasn't there. Whether he was out of town, or not, I don't know. Harry Garpender and Ralph Corraline, weren't there. They sent for me, gave me a special invitation to come there. It was a meeting to present the new minister and it said, "Whether you remember or not, come and show yourself anyhow." I have a letter here. It was the secretary for the Church who sent it.